

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02440 111407Z

53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 SP-02 INR-07 /038 W

----- 108332

R 111241Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 699

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2440

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MOPS, TH

SUBJECT: DOWNED USAF HELICOPTER

REF: (A) STATE 028300; (B) FBIS 041140Z FEB 75

1. THE DOWNED USAF HELICOPTER REF A WAS ON A ROUTINE FUNCTIONAL CHECK FLIGHT (OPERATIONAL CHECK OF AEROSPACE VEHICLE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE OF GROUND MAINTENANCE) FLYING IN A BLOCK OF AIRSPACE DESIGNATED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FEW AREAS AROUND NAKHON PHANOM RTAFB WHERE HOSTILE FIRE COULD BE COMPLETELY RULED OUT, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE ONGOING USAF ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH THE PRESENCE OF HOSTILE FIRE. THE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATING BOARD HAS SOME EVIDENCE OF MATERIEL FAILURE AND HAS THUS FAR LABELED THE CAUSE AS SUCH.

2. THE ALTITUDE PROFILE OF THE FUNCTIONAL CHECK FLIGHT (FCF) IS BETWEEN 10,000 FEET MSL AND 3,000 FEET MSL. IN RECONSTRUCTING THE PERFORMANCE OF AN FCF OF THE TYPE THIS AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THE FLIGHT ALTITUDE SHOULD HAVE BEEN APPROXIMATELY 5,000 FEET AT THE TIME CONTACT WAS LOST. THIS SHOULD IN ITSELF RULE OUT SMALL ARMS FIRE. WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRESENCE OF HEAVIER WEAPONS IN THE NEAR VICINITY OF THE CRASH SITE. IT IS A RELATIVELY FLAT OPEN AREA WITH AN OVERALL ELEVATION OF 500 FEET MSL OR BELOW.

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3. THE INITIAL MILITARY REPORTS, WHICH ARE VOICE REPORTS, BY

DESIGN CONTAIN ONLY VERY BRIEF FACTS PLUS IMMEDIATE
SPECULATIVE ASSESSMENT OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED. PER-
HAPS THIS IS WHAT REF A MEANS BY "USAF AFTER-ACTION REPORT".
WE KNOW OF NO WRITTEN REPORTS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTILE
FIRE. IF YOU HAVE REPORTS WHICH APPEAR TO SUBSTANTIATE
HOSTILE FIRE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THEM. IN MEANTIME,
WE WILL SUSPEND JUDGMENT ON STATEMENT REF A, THAT VPOT BROAD-
CAST DIFFERS FROM OFFICIAL USE REPORTS ONLY QUOTE: IN SEVERAL
DETAILS UNQUOTE.

KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PINT, MOPS, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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